

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 06522 220919Z
ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /016 W
-----032771 220921Z /13
P 220821Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5241
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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E.O.11652: NA
TAGS:
SUBJECT: STATUS OF CULTURAL PLAN

REF: STATE 168110

1. EMBASSY NOTES THAT REFTEL OMITTED REFERENCE TO OUR BERLIN 6467 OF JULY 15 WHICH WAS MOST RECENT REVIEW OF STATUS SEVERAL PROJECTS WITH BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND GDR RATIONALE FOR POSTPONEMENTS AND WAS GENERATED BY AND IN RESPONSE TO STATE 160660.

2. RE PARA 2 REFTEL, BETTIN MAY HAVE IN MIND RECIPROCITY, BUT THIS DOES NOT BOTHER US MUCH AT THIS STAGE. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IN OUR VIEW IS TO BE ABLE TO MAKE FIRM PROPOSALS FAR ENOUGH IN ADVANCE SO THAT GDR WILL HAVE NO BASIS FOR CLAIMING LACK OF TIME, ETC. THEREFORE, EMBASSY WOULD ONCE AGAIN URGE DEPT. TO PROVIDE INFO ASAP ON APPROPRIATE MUSICAL GROUP OF PHIL ARTE QUALITY IF PHIL ARTE GROUP ITSELF CANNOT COMMIT ITSELF FOR 1978.

3. NEITHER STRAND NOR REFLECTIONS CAN BE SHOWN IN GDR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30 AND INTENTION NEVER WAS TO DO SO SINCE PROPOSAL BEGAN WITH STRAND WHICH WE WERE INFORMED WASN'T AVAILABLE UNTIL LAST QUARTER 1977.

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MFA WAS GIVEN FULL FILE ON REFLECTIONS LATE JUNE AND IS CONSIDERING IT AS ALTERNATIVE TO STRAND BECAUSE OF LESS DEMANDING EXHIBIT CONDITIONS.

4. ON AMERICAN FILM WEEK, MPAA'S GRONICH HAS AUTHORIZED OUR CONTRACTING WITH GDR FOR THEATRE AND DATES LATER THIS YEAR, PREFERABLY OCTOBER,

WHILE HE TOUCHES BASE WITH GRIFF JOHNSON WHICH HE
PREDICTS WILL BE POSITIVE. TWELVE TITLES HAVE BEEN
SUBMITTED TO BETTIN, WHO PROMISED EARLY REACTION, BUT
IN DISCUSSION JULY 21 WITH BETTIN'S SUPERIOR, DR. MERKEL,
PAO WAS INFORMED THAT GDR STRONGLY FAVORS LONGER LEAD
TIME AND PROPOSES EARLY 1978 WHEN "BEST POSSIBLE THEATRE
CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE". MERKEL TOOK POOPRTUNITY TO
EXPRESS DISAPPROVAL OF SHORT ADVANCE NOTICE ON MOST US
PROGRAMS AND ASKED FOR UNDERSTANDING THAT MOST OF OUR
REUQUESTS COULD NOT BE DEALT WITH AS DEISRED.

5. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS IN PARA. FIVE REFTEL:
EMBASSY DOES NOT VIEW CULTURAL PLAN DIFFICULTIES AND
POSTPONEMENT INDUSTRIAL DESIGN EXHIBIT AS BEING RELATED
AND FINDS GDR ARGUMENTS SUMMARIZED IN BERLIN 6467
REASONABLE. THIS EXHIBIT IS AFTER ALL AS MUCH IN THEIR
INTEREST AS OURS AND WAS AT THEIR INITIATIVE, AND THE
GDR OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROJECT WERE VERY
EARNEST AND CONVINCING. FINAL QUESTION IS DIFFICULT
TO ANSWER WITH CERTAINTY. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY'S CULTURAL
PLAN PROPOSALS WERE ORIGINALLY SPREAD OVER YEAR,
DELAYS IN ACQUIRING GERMAN-BERSION FILMS, CANCELLATION
OF JAMES DICKEY, AND LATE OFFER OF PHIL ARTE COMPELLED
PROGRAMMING EVERYTHING TOWARDS LATTER PART OF YEAR WHEN
GDR FULLY PREOCCUPIED WITH 60TH ANNIVERSARY OCTOBER
REVOLUTION, TOPPED BY DIFFICULTIES IN PROVIDING SATIS-
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VACTORY EXHIBIT SPACE FOR STRAND EXHIBIT. AL OF WHICH
INCLINES US BELIEVE THAT GDR ATTITUDE TOWARDS CULTURAL
PLAN REMAINS UNCHANGED BUT THAT SNAIL-LIKE BUREAUCRACY
AND INABILITY CULTURAL OFFICIALS IMPROVISE
AND MAKE DECISIONS HAS BEEN MAIN DETERRENTS TO IMPE-
MENTATION OUR PROPOSALS. POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL EXCHANGES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), CULTURAL EXHIBITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770261-0105
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770731/aaaabaaa.tel
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